

MINUTES OF MEETING
State Board of Education
September 12-13, 2002

The September meeting of the Board of Education was held in the State Board Room, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines. Board members Gene Vincent, Sally Frudden, James Billings, Charles Edwards, Jr., Sister Jude Fitzpatrick, Greg McClain, Mary Jean Montgomery, Don Roby and Kay Wagner were present. Also present were Department Director Ted Stilwill and Department staff Gail Sullivan, Lee Tack, Ann McCarthy, Sandra Renegar, Evelyn Anderson, Kathi Slaughter, Roger Stirler, Carol Greta, Jeanette McGreevey, Jeff Berger, Jim Reese, Theresa McCune, Tom Andersen, Jane Today, Brenda Colby, J. Reese and Beverlee Adams. Also present were: Rod Boshart, *Cedar Rapids Gazette*; Todd Dorman, *Lee Newspapers*; Kathy Bolten, *Des Moines Register*; Darwin Danielson, Radio Iowa; Roger Hess, Area Education Agency 12; P.J. Corsons, Grant Wood Area Education Agency; Ron Fielder, Area Education Agency 7; Robin Madison and Dwayne Ferguson, Legislative Fiscal Bureau; Bert Wagoner, John Harvey, Jonathan Narcisse; Therese Kehoe and Joe Romano, Legislative Caucus Staff; Jim Blanche and Steve Imming, Davenport Schools; Steven McDermott, Newton Schools; Tom Rubel, Ottumwa Schools; Dewitt Jones, Pam Miller, Cora Turner, Beverly Smith, Waterloo Schools; Troy Dannen, Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union, Alan Greinir, Iowa High School Music Association, Craig Ihnen, Iowa High School Speech Association; Ed Starkenburg, Northwestern College; Cheryl Budiong, Wartburg College, and Mary Jean Jeanae, Graceland University.

President Vincent called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

The August agenda was amended by removing the proposed appeal decision In re Closing of Montour Elementary Building, Frundle, et al., Appellants, v. South Tama County Community School District, Appellee. It was moved by Sally Frudden and seconded by Kay Wagner to approve the agenda as amended.

COMMUNICATION

Public Comment

Bert Wagoner, Jr., Des Moines made a statement before the Board requesting that school libraries stock creation science resources. He also referred to a booklet issued by the U.S. Department of Education recommending that educators use “phonics” in the kindergarten and first grades to teach “reading”. Wagner encouraged the Board to implement these issues.

Director Report

Director Stilwill gave a brief report on the following topics:

Federal Legislative Update on No Child Left Behind Act

- Implication for local schools
- Meeting with Congressmen and staff
- Meeting with Secretary Paige

Regional Meeting in Chicago on Student Achievement and School Accountability- Sally Frudden representing the State Board

Update on Governor’s Proposal on Iowa Learns
Roundtable Report

- Emphasis on Transition (secondary to postsecondary)
- Meeting with Board of Regents on transition process

Teacher Quality Improvement

- Have Completed Evaluator Training
- Data-Driven Leadership Training
- Professional Development System
- Team-Based Variable Pay Component

Price Laboratory High School - Possible Closing

Early Childhood Report – “Put Reading First: The Research Building Blocks for Teaching Children to Read”

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

The minutes of the August 1-2, 2002 State Board meeting were approved.

Rules

281, Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 68, pilot charter schools as proposed was approved to be adopted and filed.

281, Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 77, program approval for teacher intern preparation programs as proposed was approved for notice of intended action.

Appeal Decision

The following appeal decisions were approved:

In re Jennifer Markey. The decision affirms the June 24, 2002 decision of the Board of Directors of the Burlington Independent Community School District, denying Appellant's open enrollment application.

Appeal Decisions

Susan Anderson, administrative law judge, indicated to the Board that the appeal decisions on the discussion agenda today deal with building closings and grade alignment. She said that the South Tama decision was removed from the Board agenda because a notice of appeal was filed. It will be considered by the Board in November. There are three items on the discussion agenda today that deal with a lot of the same issues. She indicated the South Tama decision was removed from the Board agenda because a notice of appeal was filed that will move this to the November Board agenda. A larger number of building closing and grade realignment appeals have been received in the last few months. Ms. Anderson reminded the Board that the stand for reasonableness on the building closings and grade realignment is a little different than the regular appeals. She indicated in recent years the Board has consistently said that the way we measure reasonableness in these cases is by looking at the procedure only and making sure the Barker guidelines are followed.

The administrative law judge presented an overview of the proposed appeal decision In re Johnson & Grant Elementary Buildings. Anderson indicated that the focus of the appeal was the examination of the process followed by the Davenport Board in making its decisions to close the Johnson and Grant attendance centers. The Appellants had not shown any legal reason to reverse the District Board's April 22, 2002 decision. She explained that though the process leading to the January 28, 2002 decision did not substantially comply with the Barker Guidelines, it was believed that the remedy of reversing that decision would mean instructing the District's Board to do what it has already done in making its April 22 decision. Anderson noted that the district board had followed the Barker guidelines in reconsidering and revoting on whether to close the schools. Since the District has already done what it could have been ordered to do, no more can be required.

Ms. Anderson stated that the Appellants had filed a Notice of Appeal and request for oral argument before the State Board. The request for oral argument was not granted.

Motion: It was moved by Jim Billings and seconded by Mary Jean Montgomery that the decision of the Board of Directors of the Davenport Community School District made on January 28, 2002 be reversed, and that the April 22, 2002 decision be affirmed.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

In re Closing of Lockridge Elementary Building

Susan Anderson presented an overview of the proposed appeal In re Closing of Lockridge Elementary Building. She indicated that the Fairfield District had complied with the Barker guidelines in making its March 18, 2002 decision. The Appellants did not show any legal reason to reverse the District Board's March 18, 2002 decision.

Motion It was moved by Sister Jude Fitzpatrick and seconded by Mary Jean Montgomery that the decision of the Board of Directors of the Fairfield Community School District made on March 18, 2002 to close its Lockridge Elementary Building beginning in the 2002-2003 school year be affirmed.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

In re Grade Realignment in Nodaway Valley

The administrative law judge, Susan Anderson also reviewed In re Grade Realignment in Nodaway Valley. She stated that the Nodaway Valley Community School District had complied with the Barker guidelines in making its March 20, 2002 decision, therefore no legal reason was shown by the Appellants to reverse the District Board's decision of March 20, 2002.

Motion: It was moved by Sally Frudden and seconded by Kay Wagner that the decision of the Board of Directors of the Nodaway Valley Community School District made on March 20, 2002 be affirmed.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Rules: Community College Quality Faculty Plan

Evelyn Anderson, Chief, Bureau of Community Colleges and Career and Technical Education, explained that replacing administrative rule Chapter 281-

21.3(4) helps to implement legislation passed during this General Assembly that eliminates community college licensure as of July 1, 2003 and requires community colleges to develop, approve, and implement a quality faculty plan for hiring and developing faculty.

Motion: Don Roby moved that Iowa Administrative Code 281, Chapter 21, amended as proposed, be approved for notice of intended action. It was seconded by Jim Billings.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Practitioner Preparation Program Approval

Sandra Renegar, Administrative Consultant for Practitioner Preparation reviewed the individual practitioner preparation programs for Iowa Wesleyan College, Wartburg College and Graceland University. She introduced Ed Starkenberg, Northwestern College, Cheryl Budiong, Wartburg College and Mary Jean Jeanae, Graceland University that were in attendance. Renegar cited the strengths and areas for improvement that had been identified by the team for Iowa Wesleyan College in Mt. Pleasant.

Motion: Don Roby moved and Kay Wagner seconded that reapproval be granted to the teacher education programs offered by Iowa Wesleyan College for a five year period from July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2007.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Renegar offered an overview of the site visit to Wartburg College. She indicated a full review of undergraduate programs was conducted under the new program approval rules. The state and NCATE teams conducted concurrent reviews.

Motion: It was moved by Sally Frudden and seconded by Kay Wagner that full approval be granted to the teacher education programs offered by Wartburg College for a five year period from July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2007.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

A site visit with a full review of undergraduate and graduate programs at Graceland University had been conducted at the home campus under the new program approval rules. Dr. Renegar discussed the strengths and the concerns that had been identified by the team. She also cited actions that had been taken by the University since the visit.

Motion: It was moved by Sally Frudden and seconded by Kay Wagner that reapproval be given to the teacher education programs offered by Graceland University for a five year period from July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2007.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion of 2003 Legislative Issues and Other Policy Considerations

Director Stilwill indicated to the Board that this would be the first of three related items that would be discussed with the Board on a number of interconnected issues that involve potential legislative or other policy actions, the FY04 budget, and recommendations for reducing the achievement gap. Director Stilwill indicated to the Board that one-third of the 150 legislative members would be new. He stated that the state budget situation will require the Governor and Legislature to establish priorities and make some difficult choices related to funding.

Stilwill said the legislative issues are divided into two parts. Part One contains information regarding the following two sources:

- The current need to provide state legislation to support the implementation of the new federal education policy from the No Child Left Behind Act
- Implementation of the State Board of Education's recommendations to replace the 1972 Desegregation Guidelines

Part Two addresses legislative issues that continue or expand upon current policy or State Board positions. These recommendations are related to:

- The Student Achievement and Teacher Quality Program
- Funding for community colleges
- Local authority for community college boards
- Class size/early intervention initiatives
- Early childhood
- Virtual academies
- Regional academies
- Incentives to maximize dollars for instruction

Director Stilwill discussed recommendations for the proposed legislative package to be submitted to the upcoming General Assembly. He indicated that the State Board of Education 2003 Legislative agenda would be discussed by the State Board in November. Stilwill indicated the Department would also offer a statutory clean-up bill. The Department is currently collecting and reviewing suggested opportunities to reduce the burden on the agency, districts and community colleges, eliminate obsolete Iowa Code provisions and clarify statutory intent.

FY04 Budget Discussion

Dr. Lee Tack, Administrator, Division of Financial and Information Services explained that the Department is required by the Code to submit appropriation requests to the Department of Management by October 1 of each year. He indicated some of the budget items such as school foundation aid could only be estimated since the information needed to determine the appropriation is not known at this time.

Status Report from the “Reducing the Achievement Gap” Cross Bureau Team

Jim Reese, Administrative Consultant, Bureau of Instructional Services and Teresa McCune, Title I Consultant, Bureau of Administration and School Improvement Services presented the “Reducing the Achievement Gap” report. Reese discussed the essential elements of a successful effort in reducing the achievement gap in school districts and communities. The following elements were identified:

For School Districts

- Quality of Instruction
- Supports for Students
- Strong Leadership
- Building Level Resources

For Communities

- Early Childhood Programs and Services
- Community Engagement

Teresa McCune reviewed the analysis of the data, the future data collection and the awareness and dissemination of the use of the data. The following three recommendations from the Reducing the Achievement Gap Study Team were as follows:

1. The Department initiates a collaborative statewide strategy to create an awareness of and the need to address the achievement gaps in Iowa, and to disseminate information about “what works” in reducing achievement gaps.
2. The Department identifies schools and districts that significantly reduce achievement gaps or that provide significant evidence in undertaking actions (professional development for teachers, instructional leadership, greater community and parent involvement, extended learning opportunities, etc.) that have been proven successful in reducing achievement gaps.

3. The study team recommends that the Department pursue the collection, analysis, and reporting of the following data in order to more fully understand the nature and challenge of the achievement gaps, and for monitoring progress in reducing the gaps:
 - Graduation rates (disaggregated by student groups)
 - Suspensions and expulsions (disaggregated by student groups)
 - Student requiring special education
 - Years of experience and level of education of teachers (disaggregated by school and poverty level)

McCune reported that the Department is considering the following areas for future data collection to determine the extent of the achievement gap:

- Students who do not participate in district assessment (disaggregated by student groups)
- Participation in talented and gifted programs (disaggregated by student groups)
- Participation in advanced placement courses (disaggregated by student groups)

Greg McClain stated he felt we needed to require more definitive outline on the goals and plan for reducing the achievement gap and how we are going to get there. Charles Edwards felt that this needed to be our priority and not to confuse it with the federal government requirements and the No Child Left Behind Act. Director Stilwill indicated the Department would clarify and restructure the information and review it with the Board at a later time.

AEA Accreditation

Judy Jeffrey, Administrator, Division of Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education and Jeanette McGreevy, Chief, Bureau of Administration and School Improvement Services presented the findings forwarded by the visitation teams from the visits to AEAs 6, 10 and 12. Jeffrey indicated that during the spring and summer of 2001, Chapter 72 was revised to reflect necessary upgrades in the AEA accreditation process and the three-year cycle was adjusted to a five-year cycle. The visits occurring this year are the beginning of the second round of accreditation visits.

Jeffrey indicated that the purpose of the accreditation visit is to help the AEAs improve the quality and focus of their services. Onsite visits are an essential part of the Area Education Agency (AEA) accreditation process. AEA site visits conducted during the 2001-2002 school year reflect the “transition” between old and new accreditation rules. Jeanette McGreevy and Jeff Berger reviewed the areas of strength and areas for improvement for AEAs 6, 10, and 12 respectively.

Motion: It was moved by Charles Edwards and seconded by Sally Frudden that the recommendations for Area Education Agencies 6, 10 and 12 accreditation be approved as submitted.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Leadership Development

Judy Jeffrey, Administrator and Brenda Colby, Project Director, Division of Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education discussed with the Board the progress being made on the Partnership for Leadership. The State Board had identified improving educational leadership as one of its priorities. Jeffrey reported that community conversations had been held and a committee of practitioners and business leaders had been established to gather ideas and recommendations to enhance this Board initiative. The adoption of the Iowa Standards for School Leaders had been established which created a change in principal licensing requirements and rule changes for State Board approval of administrator preparation programs. Colby told the Board an implementation grant had been received from the State Action for Educational Leadership Partnership. She indicated this would assist in the study, development and implementation of administrator policies.

Brenda Colby reviewed a handout on new administrator mentoring and induction program and the contemporary school leadership for superintendents. She indicated both of these programs were successful leadership priorities for school administrators.

Contemporary School Leadership Program

Ronald S. Fielder, Chief Administrator, Grant Wood Area Education Agency and D.J. Corson, Planning and Development Specialist, Grant Wood Area Education Agency presented this agenda item. Fielder reported that Grant Wood AEA had piloted the Contemporary School Leadership program in 1997. The program is offered at multiple sites across the state of Iowa and is a series of day long, monthly learning experiences in contemporary leadership for practicing or emerging school leaders. Fielder indicated that the purpose of the program was to develop leadership in every role in the school system of Iowa. He said educators, parents, administrators, and school board members are invited to send applications for this program.

D.J. Corson explained that the educators and civic leaders that had designed the program were the first advisory council. The purpose of the program was to provide a series of monthly learning experiences in contemporary leadership for practicing or emerging school leaders and to develop networks among those in the area who wish to play a leadership role in the schools and communities. Applicants that are selected will become more effective leaders and will mentor

others in leadership roles and train student leaders. Corson felt it would also provide more marketable skills and knowledge to fill the growing need for school leaders in the future. She felt that current administrators could assist in identifying candidates with leadership potential and support their nomination. The experiences in this program will have both an immediate and long-term positive effect on educational leadership in Iowa. Sally Frudden indicated her appreciation and encouragement of this program and hoped it would strengthen administrative leadership in Iowa schools.

No Child Left Behind (Persistently Dangerous Schools)

Judy Jeffrey reviewed Section 9532 of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). It requires the Department of Education to establish and implement statewide policy ensuring that students attending a persistently dangerous public school or students who become victims of a violent criminal offense be allowed to attend a safe public school. The NCLB Act stipulates that a school can be considered unsafe as a whole entity or for an individual student. Jeffrey indicated that the state's policy must address both of these issues and be completed no later than July 1, 2003. She stated the State must also be prepared to implement the required transfers of students no later than the start of the 2003-2004 school year.

Academic Eligibility for Athletics

Carol Greta, legal consultant, introduced the following panel members:

Newton Community Schools

Steven McDermott, Superintendent

Davenport Community Schools

Jim Blanche, Superintendent

Steve Imming, Board Vice President

Ottumwa Community Schools

Tom Rubel, Superintendent

Waterloo Community Schools

Dewitt Jones, Superintendent

Pam Miller, Board Member

Cora Turner, Faculty

Dr. Bev. Smith, Human Resources Director

Each of the panel members gave an overview of their respective school policies on academic eligibility for athletes.

Iowa's Community College Basic Literacy Skills Credential Program Annual Report Update

John Hartwig, Consultant, Bureau of Community Colleges and Career and Technical Education reviewed the Iowa Basic Literacy Skills Credential Program. He indicated the major purpose of the program was to award basic literacy skills certificates of completion or a secondary school credential or its equivalent for successful attainment of basic literacy skills competencies below the GED level for Iowa's eligible adult population. Hartwig said the credential is administered through Iowa's community colleges and consists of four components: 1) basic literacy skills certification; 2) Iowa High School Equivalency Diploma; 3) community college based adult high school diploma; and 4) traditional high school diploma. This report documents the results of the program for the program year 2002.

Hartwig commented that this was the first report provided now that reliable data was available. The Board expressed their appreciation to Mr. Hartwig for the detailed report.

2001 Teacher of the Year Education Ambassador Report

Gail Wortmann, 2001 Ambassador of the Year reported on the focus of her year as Ambassador. She had looked for information on teacher shortages and had used some data from the North Central Regional Laboratory (NCREL). In this report Iowa did not have data that some other states had, therefore her goal was to gather data for a more complete picture for Iowa. Wortmann indicated she sent out a teacher shortage survey to Iowa superintendents with a fifty-percent return and then a phone follow-up resulting in a compilation of an 89 percent response. She provided a power point presentation and explained to the Board how the data had been applied. The teacher shortage survey report provided information in the following areas:

- Number of Teachers Produced
- Teachers Who Left Districts
- Vacant Positions
- Consequences of Unfilled Positions
- Options – Addressing Shortages
- Supply for Shortages
- Patterns Emerging
- Needs

Wortmann concluded that a thrust needed to be made to promote the teaching profession. She talked about the difficulty in supporting this profession when in your first year of teaching your salary qualifies you for assistance. She felt we needed to support this profession in a positive manner if we were going to encourage teaching as a profession. The concept of “growing your own” is a very real concept and needs to be expanded. Wortmann also alerted the Board to the “rehiring of retiring” teacher's concept which Iowa does not do.

Teachers are going across the borders to be reemployed, therefore, Iowa loses that expertise. She expressed she had had a great year and her goal was to work on the teacher shortage situation and to support the teaching profession.

Policy Development Agenda

Gail Sullivan, Chief of Staff, explained the Policy Development Agenda process. The framework used for policy development forms the basis for how the State Board agendas are put together throughout the year and also gives the staff direction on the issues that need to be kept at the forefront in order to support the work of the State Board. Sullivan shared the proposal for the following policy development priorities:

1. Advocacy for Education Funding
2. Leadership Development/Quality Administrators
3. Strengthening Rural Education
4. Quality Teaching
5. Decreasing the Achievement Gap
6. Early Childhood Advocacy
7. High School Reinvention
8. Transitions
9. Community College Student Performance

She also outlined a proposal for addressing these priorities and developing State Board agendas to meet the goals. The Board discussed how to design and get positive results from the legislative reception. There was also a discussion about utilizing Thursday evenings of State Board meetings for special topic discussions. The Board members also felt the quarterly meetings with the Governor should be continued. The Board suggested that staff take these ideas into consideration.

Motion: It was moved by Sally Frudden and seconded by Kay Wagner that the Board approve the proposed Policy Development Agenda.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Board Member Reports

Kay Wagner reported she had attended her area superintendent's meeting.

James Billings – No Report

Sally Frudden reviewed with the Board that she had attended the DE/AEA Design Team meeting held in Des Moines and that recommendations were currently being discussed. Frudden indicated she had also attended the superintendent's meeting in her area where the discussion was the merger of

AEA 2, 6, and 7. She reiterated that there were lots of issues going on in education with the No Child Left Behind Act and AEA reorganizations.

Greg McClain reported that Governor Vilsack had a great response to the press release on Iowa Learns. He also indicated he had attended the Governor's Task Force on African-American Student Achievement. This task force will soon be sending recommendations to the Governor and Lieutenant Governor.

McClain indicated he would like the Board to hear a presentation from Price Lab School giving an overview of accomplishments and goals of this specialty school.

Don Roby – No Report

Gene Vincent – No Report

Ted Stilwill handed out proposed topics for the November State Board agenda.

Gene Vincent adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Gene Vincent, President

Ted Stilwill, Director
and Executive Officer

